



Your help is needed: [American Red Cross](#) / [The Salvation Army](#)

[set as home page](#) [a](#)

[join mailing list](#) [we](#)

Word (phrase): complementary

Word

L

|                            |                           |                         |                       |                           |            |          |                            |                |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Dictionary/<br>thesaurus | • Computing<br>dictionary | • Medical<br>dictionary | • Legal<br>dictionary | • Financial<br>dictionary | • Acronyms | • Idioms | ■ Columbia<br>encyclopedia | ■ Wiki<br>ency |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|

**complementary** Also found in: [Computing](#), [Medical](#), [Columbia](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Hutchinson](#) 0.02 sec.

[Find a Nutritionist](#)

Ads by Goooooogle

Find a Medical Practitioner Who Uses Nutritional Therapies  
[www.findanutritionist.com](http://www.findanutritionist.com)

[Anti-Aging Medicine](#)

Physician Training - 50 CME Credits AMA/PRA Level 4 Certification  
[www.cenegenics.com/physicians\\_only/](http://www.cenegenics.com/physicians_only/)

**Page tools**

[Printer friendly](#)

[Cite / link](#)

[Email](#)

[Feedback](#)

**com·ple·men·ta·ry** (kŏm'plə-mĕn'tə-rē, -trē)  
*adj.*

1. Forming or serving as a complement; completing.
2. Supplying mutual needs or offsetting mutual lacks.
3. *Genetics* Of or relating to a group of genes that act in concert to produce a specific phenotype.
4. *Biochemistry* Of or relating to the specific pairing of the purines and pyrimidines between strands of a DNA or an RNA molecule.

**com'ple·men'ta·ri·ly** (-tə-rə-lē, -trə-lē, -mĕn-tār'ə-lē) *adv.*

**com'ple·men'ta·ri·ness** *n.*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2003.  
Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

## Thesaurus

Legend: [Synonyms](#) [Related Words](#) [Antonyms](#)

**Noun 1. complementary** - either one of two chromatic colors that when mixed together give white (in the case of lights) or gray (in the case of pigments); "yellow and blue are complementaries"

[complementary color](#)

[chromatic color](#), [chromatic colour](#), [spectral color](#), [spectral colour](#) - a color that has hue

**Adj. 1. complementary** - acting as or providing a complement (something that completes the whole)

[complemental](#), [completing](#)

[inessential](#), [unessential](#) - not basic or fundamental

**2. complementary** - of words or propositions so related that each is the negation of the other; "'male' and 'female' are complementary terms"

[antonymous](#) - of words: having opposite meanings

**3. complementary** - of or relating to or suggestive of complementation; "interchangeable electric outlets"

[interchangeable](#), [reciprocal](#)

[reciprocal](#), [mutual](#) - concerning each of two or more persons or things; especially given or done in return; "reciprocal aid"; "reciprocal trade"; "mutual respect"; "reciprocal privileges at other clubs"

### ▼ Mentioned in

[Accidental colors](#)  
[Anuszkiewicz](#)

[correlate](#)  
[correlative](#)

### ▼ References in classic literature

To speak with severe technicality, a ship or a fleet is "brought up" - the **complementary** words



Your help is needed: [American Red Cross](#) / [The Salvation Army](#)

[set as home page](#) [join mailing list](#)

Word (phrase):

Word



|                            |                           |                         |                       |                           |            |          |                            |                |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|
| • Dictionary/<br>thesaurus | • Computing<br>dictionary | • Medical<br>dictionary | • Legal<br>dictionary | • Financial<br>dictionary | • Acronyms | • Idioms | • Columbia<br>encyclopedia | • Wiki<br>ency |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------|----------------|

**complement** Also found in: [Computing](#), [Medical](#), [Legal](#), [Acronyms](#), [Columbia](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Hutchinson](#) 0.02

[Save on Complements Lenses](#)

Sponsored links

AC lens has the **Complements** lenses you need at amazingly low prices.

Receive factory fresh lenses direct to your door.

[www.aclens.com](http://www.aclens.com)

[ShopLens: Complements Contacts](#)

ShopLens is a replacement contact lens store with a large selection of brand name contact lenses including Johnson and Johnson, Bausch and Lomb and CIBA Vision. Satisfaction guaranteed.

[www.shoplens.com](http://www.shoplens.com)

**Page tools**

[Printer friendly](#)

[Cite / link](#)

[Email](#)

[Feedback](#)

**com·ple·ment** <sup>1</sup> (kŏm'plə-mənt)

*n.*

1.
  - a. Something that completes, makes up a whole, or brings to perfection.
  - b. The quantity or number needed to make up a whole: *shelves with a full complement of books.*
  - c. Either of two parts that complete the whole or mutually complete each other.
2. An angle related to another so that the sum of their measures is 90°.
3. *Grammar* A word or words used after a verb to complete a predicate construction; for example, the phrase *to eat ice cream* in *We like to eat ice cream.*
4. *Music* An interval that completes an octave when added to a given interval.
5. The full crew of officers and enlisted personnel required to run a ship.
6. *Immunology* A complex system of proteins found in normal blood plasma that combines with antibodies to destroy pathogenic bacteria and other foreign cells. Also called *alexin*.
7. *Mathematics & Logic* For a universal set, the set of all elements in the set that are not in a specified subset.
8. A complementary color.

*tr.v.* (-mənt') **com·ple·ment·ed**, **com·ple·ment·ing**, **com·ple·ments**

To serve as a complement to: *Roses in a silver bowl complement the handsome cherry table.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *complēmentum*, from *complēre*, to fill out; see **complete**.]

**Usage Note:** *Complement* and *compliment*, though quite distinct in meaning, are sometimes confused because they are pronounced the same. As a noun, *complement* means "something that completes or brings to perfection" (*The antique silver was a complement to the beautifully set table*); used as a verb it means "to serve as a complement to." The noun *compliment* means "an expression or act of courtesy or praise" (*They gave us a compliment on our beautifully set table*), while the verb means "to pay a compliment to."

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition copyright ©2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Updated in 2003. Published by Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

## Thesaurus

Legend: [Synonyms](#) [Related Words](#) [Antonyms](#)

**Noun 1. complement** - a word or phrase used to complete a grammatical construction

[grammatical construction](#), [construction](#), [expression](#) - a group of words that form a constituent of a sentence and are considered as a single unit; "I concluded from his awkward constructions that he was a foreigner"

**2. complement** - a complete number or quantity; "a full complement"